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theory, the same objection must apply to it as to the many preceding treatises grounded upon the same principles. The foundation of the diatonic scale, for instance, is still a disputed point; and, although it is stated in the book before us that, in the scale of C, the first three notes are derived from C, and the second three from F, we have only a *Hexachord* before us, and there still remains that unfortunate seventh sound, which is so disconnected with the previous harmony, that our author very acutely remarks how appropriately it would appear, as a leading note, rather *below*, than *above*, the note from which the scale was started. It also appears strange that, in the preliminary explanations of the principles of Harmony, the natural series of harmonic sounds should be given; and that, although some of these are declared to be out of tune, they are afterwards accepted as component parts of a chord derived from the given generator. There can be no question of the excessive talent and research displayed in Dr. Day's treatise on Harmony, to which the author of the present work continually refers; but with us it has always appeared that the facts have been so continually made to accord with his theory that it creates a doubt whether, like our system of tuning by equal temperament, it is not better to acknowledge our defeat, and rest content with the admission that music cannot be ruled by the abstract laws of mathematics. When we consider, for example, how natural it appears that in passing from the first inversion of the subdominant triad to the dominant harmony, we should be able to flatten chromatically the bass note, and sharpen the sixth (a theory so admirably laid down by Dr. Crotch), it certainly does appear complicated that we should go to the *dominant of the dominant* of the key for the root; and that, even then, we should accept the bass note as a flat ninth on the dominant of the key it resolves to; so that this apparently simple harmony must actually be referred to a *double root* before it can be comprehended by the student. Again, in the desire to include many mere melodic notes in the harmony, continual difficulties arise, as in this instance, at page 204, from Handel's Funeral Anthem, where, after an attempt to force the G into the chord, as a major ninth from the root, requiring its usual resolution, the passage is left in doubt, as "an isolated example of *licence*, peculiar to Handel."

We have made these few observations upon the work submitted to us not with any desire to undervalue the merit of its contents (especially as we see in it a laudable desire to arrange a system of harmony which shall be logically deduced from defined premises), but simply to prove that it is no exception to those treatises on the science which, accepting "nature" as the guide, seem to be constantly falling back upon art for assistance. As a thoughtful, intelligent book by an earnest student, we confidently recommend Sir Gore Ouseley's work, but as a standard authority, from which there can be no appeal, we do not believe that it is destined to occupy a permanent place.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

****** *Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.*

We beg to remind our correspondents that all notices of country concerts, whether written or extracted from newspapers, must be accompanied by the name and address of the person who sends them.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

B. BIRD.—1. *The Two Trios are written for soft stops, and may be recommended for practical use.* 2. *Cooper's*

arrangement of Mendelssohn's "Hear, ye Israel," is the complete air; it is arranged on three staves, and is followed by the chorus, "Be not afraid." 3. *We cannot undertake to give an opinion on the relative merits of two arrangements of the same air, as both are good.*

G. B. S.—*Our correspondent must see that we cannot insert a criticism upon an artist written by a person so obviously interested; and there is nothing to show from what newspaper the paragraph forwarded to us is extracted.*

V. W.—*The anthem betrays utter ignorance of the primary rules of Harmony; consecutive fifths, and discords rising, abounding throughout the composition.*

Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

BALLARAT, VICTORIA.—The Ballarat Harmonic Society gave a Concert on Good Friday, the programme of which was appropriately devoted exclusively to sacred music. Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, and Mozart's *Twelfth Mass* were the works performed. The principal vocalists were Mrs. J. C. Ellis, of Melbourne, Miss Hoffmeister, Master T. Elliott, Messrs. D. Oliver, J. Lamble, P. Cazaly, and S. Lamble; and the band and chorus consisted of 120 performers. The solos were given generally with excellent effect; and the choruses throughout were rendered with accuracy and decision. Mr. A. T. Turner was conductor, Mr. T. King, leader, and Mrs. King presided at the organ.

BATH.—The Third Annual Festival of the Bath District Church Choral Association, was held in St. Mary's Church, Bathwick, on Tuesday, May 26th, and was in every respect a great success. There were twenty-seven choirs present, consisting of 439 voices; and the manner in which the singers kept together, showed that they had been well trained. The service was Anglican in the morning, and Gregorian in the afternoon. Dr. Monk's Unison Nicene Creed was the chief feature of the morning service; and the Anthem, by V. Novello, "The Lord is my strength," was very effectively given in the afternoon. Mr. Pearson, the Organist of St. Mary's, presided at the organ during the day; the Gregorians being accompanied by Mr. Hewitt, Organist of St. John's, and Choir-master to the Association. The offertories amounted to £36.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday evening, the 9th ult., the members of the Bedford Amateur Musical Society gave their second Concert of the season at the Assembly Rooms. The programme was unusually attractive, the principal feature being Schiller's "Lay of the Bell" (*Andreas Romberg*), a composition with which the general public are not familiar, but which afforded the amateurs full scope for the display of those vocal and instrumental powers which have already established for them a well-merited reputation for assiduity, proficiency, and cultivated taste. The principal parts were most ably sustained by Miss Brereton, Miss Lucas, Miss Sirett, Miss Green, Miss Mc'Lellan, Mrs. Saunders, Messrs. Young, A. Howard, Norris, Harrison, Clough, the Rev. J. Wood, and Mr. Bywater; and the choruses were rendered throughout with remarkable feeling and precision. The programme also contained a short selection from Mr. Barnett's Cantata *The Ancient Mariner*; and some part-songs, which were exquisitely given, especially Barnby's "Sweet and low," which was encored, and Lahee's "All ye woods and bowers." Every credit is due to Professor Diemer for the excellent manner in which he has trained the choir, and the zeal he has invariably displayed in the interest of this rising Society.

BOWDON.—On Thursday afternoon, the 18th ult., the fourth annual Festival of the Frodsham Deaneries Choral Association, was celebrated in Bowdon Parish Church.

It is gratifying from year to year to be able to congratulate this association on its continual progress. Each successive Festival enables it to take an advanced position, of which the last was a strong proof. The choir, upwards of 400 in number, of course occupied a considerable space, filling the transepts, and a portion of the nave. At half-past three o'clock, the clergy entered the church in procession by the west door, and walking up the nave, took their places in the chancel. The service was full choral, prayers being intoned by the Rev. E. D. Garven. The first lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Barclay, and the second by the Ven. Archdeacon Pollock. The psalms were the 93rd (Sir F. A. G. Ouseley), and the 94th (Beethoven), both of which were well rendered. The *Deus Misereatur*, (of Kelway), was sung with much power, and the responses were given by the choir with admirable precision. The anthem was by John Goss, "O taste, and see how gracious the Lord is." Before the sermon, the hymn "O love, who form'dst me to wear," from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, was sung with much effect. After the sermon, the choir gave Handel's grand *Hallelujah* chorus. Great praise is due to Mr. Towers, the choirmaster, and to his able assistant Mr. Arnold, for the efficient manner in which they have trained the choirs composing the association. Mr. Towers was the organist on this occasion.

BRENTWOOD.—On the 11th ult., the double feast of S. Barnabas, the Apostle, and of Corpus Christi, was observed with great honour in Brentwood Church, the day having been chosen to celebrate the choral festival of the United Parochial Choirs, comprised in the Brentwood District of the Association for promoting the improvement of Church Music. The *Venite* was given to a chant in F major, by the Rev. W. Felton, and the Psalms to one in E flat, by Barrow. The Anthem, "Teach me, O Lord," (a quartet from an Anthem, by Thomas Attwood), and Tallis's *Preces* and *Responses* were quite refreshing, as genuine specimens of what sacred music should be. In the evening service an Anthem, by C. Gardner, Esq., the choirmaster, was most effectively given, especially the fugue, "For there the Lord." The composition contains some good points, and is smoothly written for the voices throughout. Special mention should also be made of Joseph Barnby's beautiful setting of the hymn, "O Paradise," and Arthur H. Brown's simple and unaffected tune to Dr. Neale's translation of a hymn, by S. Anatholius, A.D. 454, "'The day is past and over." Great praise is due to Mr. Gardner for the admirable manner in which he has trained the choir; and a word of commendation must also be awarded to Mr. A. H. Brown, who presided most efficiently at the organ.

BURSLEM.—The Potteries Tonic Sol-fa Choristers held their ninth annual Festival of Flowers and Song in the Town Hall, Burslem, on the 26th May. The Concert opened with a performance, for the first time in the Potteries, of a Cantata, *May-Day*, for soprano solo, chorus, and orchestra, by G. A. Macfarren. The Cantata was well executed, and concluded amidst general applause. The pure soprano voice of Miss Pass told well in the part of the May Queen; and the applause which greeted her at the close of the song was very hearty. The orchestral accompaniments were most efficiently played by a band of local amateurs (led by Mr. Cadman); the execution of the violoncello *obbligato*, by Mr. F. Mountford, deserving particular mention. Mr. T. Hulme also contributed very much to the success of the performance by his skilful accompaniment on the organ. The second part was miscellaneous; and contained, amongst other attractive vocal pieces, a song, "The Brook's lullaby," well sung by Miss Dickin, with choral accompaniment; "The Golden Maytime," a new song by Hatton, charmingly rendered by Miss Pass; Henry Smart's new part-song "Nature's Praise," and Benedict's "Hunting Song." Mr. Powell conducted the Concert.

CANTERBURY.—The Seventh Festival of Parochial Choirs of the Canterbury Diocesan Choral Union, took place in Canterbury Cathedral, on the 9th ult. The number of voices was about 650; and the execution of the music, although by no means above reproach, was on the whole satisfactory. Professor H. S. Oakeley's anthem, "O praise the Lord, all ye nations," was well sung; and also the hymns before and after the Sermon, "O, Holy Spirit," to a tune attributed to Tallis. Mr. Longhurst played with his usual ability at the morning service, and the voluntary at the afternoon service.

CARLOW.—The first Concert of the Carlow Harmonic Society took place on the 29th May, in the Assembly Rooms, and was most numerous and fashionably attended. The Society was ably assisted by William Power O'Donoghue, Esq., Mus. Bac., Oxon; and under the able direction of its founder, R. M. Atkinson, Esq., proved the most successful of any performance yet given. The vocalists and instrumentalists numbered over sixty performers.

CROPREDY.—The Fifth Annual Festival of the Deanery of Deddington Choral Association, was held in St. Mary's Church, on Tuesday, the 16th ult. The surpliced choirs entered in procession, singing the 84th Psalm; and in the evening, "Brightly gleams our banner." The *Responses*, *Preces*, &c. (intoned by the Rev. C. Cubitt and Rev. W. Tebbis, of Banbury), were Plain-song, with Helmore's Harmonies. The Chants to Psalms and Canticles were "Anglican" only in the Morning, and entirely Gregorian at Evening Service. The Anthems were Mendelssohn's "Let all men praise the Lord," and Weldon's "O praise God in his holiness." The hymns, "All ye who seek," and "When morning gilds the skies," were selected from the Appendix to the Hymnal Noted. At both services, the steadiness and precision with which the choirs rendered the music, showed a marked improvement on former years, and spoke volumes for the untiring exertions of the Choir-master, Mr. Seabrook, of Bicester.

DONCASTER.—On Thursday, the 4th ult., the Doncaster Church Choral Union, held in St. George's Church, the fifth Annual Festival of the choirs of its various districts, under the conductorship of Mr. Eyre, choirmaster of St. George's, Doncaster, and also district choirmaster of the Union. The number of choirs present was 26; and the singers in the aggregate amounted to about 450. Five of the choirs and the clergy, all surpliced, headed by the precentor of the Union, the Rev. H. Fleetwood Sheppard, M.A., Incumbent of Kilnhurst, formed a procession in the vicarage grounds and proceeded to the Church, singing a hymn,—"Onward, Christian soldiers," in a very steady and effective manner. This hymn was also used as the recessional one. The precentor intoned at both services. The responses were sung in harmony at the morning service; but at the afternoon they were sung in unison, with organ accompaniment. The chants to the psalms of the morning Service were Anglican; whilst those for the psalms and canticles in the afternoon were Gregorian. Both the responses and the psalms were well sung. The *Te Deum* was sung to the Ambrosian melody—its own simple and appropriate strain. The singing of this was undoubtedly the most marked feature of the Festival. The Anthem at morning Service was "Blessing and glory," by Dr. Boyce. A very well written hymn, composed expressly for the occasion by the Rev. H. F. Sheppard, the precentor, was sung before the Sermon in the morning. The feature of the singing in the afternoon was the fine, majestic, and slow unison chanting of the *Magnificat* to the 7th tone, 1st ending, Gregorian tone. Indeed the whole of the chanting at this Service was better than that of the morning. The Anthem was one by John Weldon, 1724, "My help cometh of the Lord." It was the opinion of those well qualified to judge, that the singing of the choirs this year was a marked improvement upon preceding years. The Church of St. George, Doncaster, is well known to possess

the finest organ in England; and we feel bound to say that Mr. J. Rogers, the organist, knows well how to use it. At both morning and evening Services the accompaniments were well varied, judicious, and in keeping with the structure of the subjects.—THE Parish Church has sustained a severe loss in the death of Master George B. Mason (principal treble in the choir), a boy highly gifted with all the qualities necessary to fit him for the position he held. His death occurred at the early age of fourteen. He was interred at the Cemetery, in the presence of a large assembly, comprising all classes in the town, the choir chanting the 90th Psalm, and singing "Brief life is here our portion;" and Luther's grand hymn "Great God, what do I see and hear?"

DUBLIN.—A Social Tea Meeting was given in connection with the old "No surrender" Orange Lodge, 1708, in the Orange Hall, on Friday evening, May 29th. The chair was taken by Brother J. White, Esq., Master. The musical portion of the programme was well rendered by Miss Robinson, Mrs. Craig, Bros. D. Craig, E. Dyas, and some friends, who kindly lent their assistance. Mr. R. P. MacLagan presided at the pianoforte. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

DURSLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—A Select Class, commencing with about twenty-five members of the leading families in the neighbourhood, has been formed for the practice of sacred music fortnightly in the Town Hall, under the direction of Dr. R. Haines-Wood, organizing choir-master, and Organist to the Dursley Choral Union.

FALMOUTH.—The Concert given at the Polytechnic Hall, on the 22nd May, by the Truro Oratorio Society, was a decided success. The programme consisted of selections from the Oratorios, the first part being wholly taken from the *Messiah*. The principal vocalists were Miss Bailey (who gave "Rejoice, greatly," with much effect), Miss Willoughby, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Veal (a working miner, with a really good bass voice), Miss Phillips, and Miss Hugo. The choruses were sung throughout with much decision and expression. Mr. G. Hele, organist of St. Mary's, Truro, conducted: Mr. Baker was the leader, and Mr. J. Hele, R.A.M., accompanied on the harmonium.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, May 31st, being the Feast of Pentecost, High Mass was celebrated in St. John's Catholic Church, when the following selection was performed by a powerful orchestra and chorus (including several of the leading professionals in the City), Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, Gounod's *Offertoire*, and, at dismissal, Gounod's *Gloria*; all of which were rendered in a highly creditable manner. The soloists were Miss B. M. Bernard (soprano), Madame Browning (contralto), Mr. E. Oprey (tenor), and Mr. James Straney (bass). Mr. John Calcott conducted.

GREENOCK.—The concluding Concert of the twelfth season of the Greenock Choral Society took place on the 28th May. Gounod's *Messe Solennelle* was very excellently rendered, the choir showing evident signs of the careful drilling bestowed upon it by Mr. Poulter. A selection from *Elizah* was also included amongst the sacred music, and Mendelssohn's Organ Sonata, No. 3, was very finely played by Mr. Peace. The second part of the programme contained five part-songs, the most effective of which were G. A. Macfarren's "All is still," W. Macfarren's "Hunting Song," and Henry Smart's "Crocuses and Snowdrops." Another organ solo was performed in this part by Mr. Peace, who also officiated as accompanist with much ability.

HEREFORD.—The Choral Society gave its Midsummer Concert, on Wednesday evening, the 10th ult., when the music comprised "Summer" and "Winter," from Haydn's *Seasons*. The audience was not so large as usual. The soprano recit. and air, "Here, amid these calm recesses," allotted to Miss Broad, was heartily received, as

indeed it deserved; and that lady's solo in the second part, the ballad, "There was a Squire," was exceedingly well given. The cavatina (soprano) by Miss L. Broad, was highly successful; and her solo, "While the wheel is turning," followed by the very clever "Spinning Chorus," was a great treat. The recit. and air tenor, sung by Mr. Robinson, received hearty applause. We believe it is the first solo taken by this gentleman, and its performance was very creditable. The choruses were well rendered throughout.

IPSWICH.—The "Concordia," which has become an institution in this town, gave an "open evening" at the New Assembly Rooms, on Tuesday, the 26th May. There was a crowded and fashionable audience, and the music was executed in a very creditable manner, under the conductorship of Mr. C. F. Hunnibell. The programme included a selection from Haydn's *Seasons*, and several well chosen duets, glees, &c., all of which were well rendered, especially the duet, "Spring, her lovely charms unfolding," Webbe's fine glee, "When winds breathe soft," and Kticken's duet, "The Fisher's Evening Song." This Society has now entered its third year, and is well supported; but still, seeing the advantage it affords for practice, both for vocal and instrumental music, it is surprising that in a town like Ipswich it does not number three times its present members.

LEIGH, NEAR SOUTHEEND.—The Festival of the Choirs, in union with the Rochford and Canewdon Choral Association, was held in Leigh Church, on Thursday, the 11th ult. The service, on the whole, was very well performed; and reflected credit on the choir-master of the Association, Mr. D. C. Bellingham. The chants and hymns were taken from Monk and Ouseley's Psalter, and *Hymns Ancient and Modern* respectively. The responses were from Tallis. The anthem, by the Rev. Dr. Malan, was very smoothly and effectively sung. The Priest's part was carefully intoned by the Rev. H. Wardell. The organ, a very powerful instrument, erected at Easter, was played by Mr. H. G. Rew, Organist of S. Mary's, Staines.

LIVERPOOL.—The "Societa Armonica" gave a performance of the *Creation* at the County Asylum, Rainhill, on the 5th ult. The band and chorus numbered about fifty-five. Mr. Armstrong was the conductor, and Miss Monkhouse and Mr. Hughes the solo soprano and bass; Mr. Hibbert, of the Asylum, taking the tenor solos. The choruses were particularly well rendered; and the performance was thoroughly appreciated by a very attentive audience.—The 71st Anniversary Meeting of the Liverpool Apollo Glee Club (established 1796), was held on the 28th May; Robert Evans, Esq., President. A selection of glees was given by the performing members, Messrs. Haswell, Evans, Brough, W. Roberts, T. J. Hughes, and Armstrong. Mr. Joseph Skeaf presided at the pianoforte.

MEXBRO'.—A miscellaneous Subscription Concert was given on the 8th ult., in the National School-Room, as a complimentary benefit to Miss Harrison, in which the following took part—Mrs. House, Mrs. Frith, Miss Harrison, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. Albert Wilson, Mr. Birtles, Mr. Charlesworth, Mr. Frith, Mr. Gaunt, Mr. Kay, and Mr. Edgington. There was an excellent programme, which was carried out in a manner that elicited the hearty commendations of a numerous audience. Mr. W. Stubbs was the pianist, and his playing of Thalberg's "Home, sweet home," received well merited applause. Prior to the conclusion of the concert, a purse of gold was presented to Miss Harrison by the committee appointed on behalf of the subscribers, as a testimonial of esteem and admiration of her abilities on the occasion of her leaving Mexbro', to reside permanently in Sheffield.

MONTREAL.—On the 15th May, Mr. Torrington gave an Organ Recital at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Great St. James Street, before a large audience. The programme was exceedingly well selected from the

works of the classical composers, and Mr. Torrington's performance was received with much applause; the most severe compositions, such as the "Organ Sonata," of Mendelssohn, and the Fugue by J. S. Bach, exciting especial interest, a fact which speaks strongly for the growing musical taste of the public of Montreal. The Recital terminated with Weber's "Jubilee" Overture, a piece which displayed the qualities of the organ to great advantage.

MORTLAKE.—On Saturday, the 6th ult., eight members of the St. James's Society of Change Ringers, performed upon the bells of St. Mary's Church, a solemn funeral peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 2 hours 53 minutes. The band was stationed as follows: W. Coppage, treble; G. Stockham, 2nd; R. Jameson, 3rd; J. Cox, 4th; W. Baron, 5th; W. Green, 6th; G. Banks, 7th; and G. Harvey, tenor. The peal was conducted by Mr. John Cox; and was rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. John Waland, who was for twenty-three years Parochial Beadle and Coroner's officer in Mortlake, and also a member of the above-named Society, and of the Society of College Youths.

OLDHAM.—The Annual Concert by the pupils of the High School, was lately given in the Town Hall to a crowded audience. The programme consisting of rounds, part-songs, and glees, for equal voices, was well chosen. The efforts of the young vocalists, some 150, were well received, and there were numerous encores. Mr. John Towers, the singing-master at the Institute, conducted, and Mr. Lees presided at the pianoforte.

OXFORD.—Exercises for the Mus. Bac. Degree.—On Tuesday, an exercise for the degree of Bachelor of Music, composed by Mr. Vincent Barnard, of New College, and organist of St. Leonards-on-Sea, was performed in the Sheldonian Theatre, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Corfe, Choragus, who officiated for the Professor of Music. The exercise consists of seven movements, viz.: an instrumental symphony, three choruses, a quartet, canon, and a tenor solo, "Thou feedest them with the bread of tears," which was given with great taste and feeling by Mr. Allman. The music is smooth and flowing, and pleasing to the ear. The fault, if indeed it be a fault, consists in its brevity; this is especially noticed in the last chorus, just enough being written to work out a fugue. The quintet band was led by Mr. Henniker; and Mr. Taylor, organist of New College, presided at the pianoforte. The music was very creditably rendered by the members of the New College choir.

RADLEY.—The Annual Concert of Sacred Music given by the Radley College School choir, assisted by Old Radleians, took place in the Gymnasium on the 1st ult. The first part consisted of Mendelssohn's "As the Hart pants," the choruses in which were executed in a manner which showed how thoroughly the choir appreciate and delight in the compositions of the great masters. The second part was selected from the works of Handel, chiefly from *Saul*. In the solos each boy sang with much taste and feeling. Especially noticeable were the contralto air, "O Lord, whose mercies numberless;" the song of Saul, "A serpent in my bosom warmed;" Manoa's song from *Samson*, "How willing my paternal love;" and the soprano air from *The Redemption*, "Holy, holy, holy;" all of which were re-demanded. The choruses went with the utmost precision, especially "Envy! eldest born of hell!" from *Saul*, and "Let their celestial concerts," from *Samson*. The Concert concluded with the "Hallelujah" chorus from the *Messiah*. The whole was conducted by the Precentor, to whose indefatigable exertions the success of the performance was entirely due.

RANDALSTOWN, IRELAND.—A Concert was given in the large room under the offices, on the estate of Baron O'Neil, Shane's Castle, on Thursday evening, May 28th. The principal vocalists were Miss McFarland,

soprano; Miss Kimpston, contralto; Mr. Nesbit, tenor; and Mr. W. H. Giles, bass. There was also a numerous chorus. Mrs. Kerr, of Ballymena, presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. William Moss, of Belfast, conducted. The programme contained some excellent songs, duets, glees, and choruses; and the performance was well received. The audience was large, and included many of the nobility and gentry of the town and neighbourhood.

RUGBY.—The Rugby Philharmonic Society, which was only established in January last, brought its first season to a most successful termination, by two performances of the *Messiah*, on the evenings of the 3rd and 4th ult. The band and chorus numbered about 100 performers. The principal vocalists engaged were Mrs. A. J. Sutton (soprano), of Birmingham; Miss Ridgway (contralto), of Birmingham; Mr. Grayson (tenor), of Lichfield Cathedral; and the Rev. W. H. Bliss, B.A., Mus. Bac., (bass), Minor Canon of the Chapel Royal Windsor, who kindly volunteered his services for the occasion. All the soloists gave the most entire satisfaction, especially Mrs. Sutton, in "Rejoice, greatly," Mr. Grayson, in "Thou shalt break them," and Mr. Bliss, in "Why do the nations." Miss Ridgway's singing was also much admired. The choruses, were, on the whole, given with much point and precision; and the greatest credit is due to the conductor, Mr. Edwards, and to Herr Pettersson, the leader of the band, for the evident pains they have bestowed upon the Society.

SHEFFIELD.—On the 28th May, the members of the Sheffield Choral Union assembled at the Royal Mail, West Street, for the purpose of presenting to their Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. Barton, a beautifully illuminated address, subscribed for by the members generally; and as a supplement thereto, by Mr. and Mrs. House, a splendidly bound copy of Handel's *Messiah*. The address, both as to coloring and appropriateness of design, being of a purely musical character, reflects the highest credit on the artist, Mr. Henry Fish. The copy of the *Messiah*, bound by House and Co., Watson Walk, is a masterpiece of bookbinding in the antique style; having, on the upper side, within a sunk panel, executed in oxydised silver, "The Adoration of the Magi;" whilst on the reverse side, is "The Descent from the Cross," the figures of which, surrounded by the elements of the Passion, stand out in bold relief. There was a numerous attendance of members. Mr. Shirley took the chair, and Mr. Pearce, the vice-chair. After supper, Mr. Shirley made the presentation; and, in so doing, remarked that Mr. Barton had been associated with the society since its formation, and had taken the greatest interest in its proceedings. Mr. Barton, in reply, thanked his friends for the honor they had done him, in presenting him with so rare a testimony of their regard.

SKELMOBLIE.—A Service of sacred music was given in the parish church, on the 9th ult. Anthems and choruses were sung by the choir, accompanied on the organ by Mr. Charles Ferguson, the church organist; and vocal solos and organ performances agreeably varied the programme. The very finished singing of Dr. Blatherwick, from Garlochside, and Miss Stephen, of Glasgow, was a great feature in the performance. The organist had arranged for the organ, from the orchestral score, the opening movements of Mozart's *Twelfth Mass* for the occasion; and these, as well as the other organ selections were highly attractive. Another service is expected shortly.

SMETHWICK.—The Smethwick Choral Society held its first open Rehearsal, on Thursday, May 28th, in the Public Hall. The programme comprised the first and second parts of Haydn's *Creation*, and a miscellaneous selection, including Mendelssohn's four-part songs, "May Song," "The Morning Prayer," and "The Lark." The choruses in the *Creation*, as well as the part-songs, were given with commendable vigour and precision, considering

the short time the Society has been in existence; and much credit is due to the members of the choir for their diligence, and to their talented conductor, Mr. A. J. Sutton, of Birmingham, for his skill and perseverance in training them to their present state of efficiency.

SWANSEA.—On Thursday evening, the 21st May, an Amateur Concert (assisted by Miss A. Edmonds) was given at the Music Hall, in aid of the funds of the Swansea Infirmary. The programme was well selected to meet the taste of a popular audience. The part-singing of the Swansea Harmonic Society was exceedingly good throughout the evening; and reflected the utmost credit upon their able instructor, M. Jules Allard. Several duets, quartets, and solos were given with much effect; and the Concert terminated with the National Anthem. Miss Aubrey and Mr. Clyma presided at the pianoforte.

ULVERSTONE.—It will be a source of regret to the parishioners to learn that R. Daniel, Esq., has felt it incumbent upon him to resign the position he has so long held of honorary organist at the Parish Church. Mr. Daniel was just about completing the thirty-fourth year of his connection with the office; and when it is recollected that to his individual exertions chiefly, and to the liberality with which he has contributed out of his own private resources, the parish is indebted for the noble organ which now adorns the restored Church, his severance from it will be felt as all the more strange and painful. That this result should have arisen from personal disagreements is still more grieving when it is remembered how cordial and affectionate were the terms which existed between the late Canon Gwilym and Mr. Daniel. We hear that his place has already been filled by a young lady, a pupil of his own; though there is a strong hope that Mr. Daniel will resume the position he has so long filled with undoubted satisfaction and delight to the congregations which have worshipped in the Parish Church.

WINCHESTER.—The Church Choral Union lately held its second annual Festival at St. Cross Church, when the following choirs were present, numbering upwards of 280:—Fair Oak, Bishopstoke, Owslebury, Ovington, Headbourne Worthy, St. Cross, Hursley, Botley, Crawley, Ampfield, Upham, Morestead, Twyford, (Winchester choirs) Training College, St. Thomas, St. Maurice, St. Bartholomew Hyde. The morning Service commenced at 11 o'clock; the Hursley choir, in their surplices, with the officiating clergy, entering the West door of the Church, singing the processional hymn, "The Strain Upraise." The Rev. C. E. Hey Troyte, and a Canon of the Cathedral, intoned the Services throughout both morning and evening. The *Venite* was given to a chant by Rev. C. J. Smyth, and the Psalms to chants by Cooke and Atkins. The *Te Deum* was sung to Dr. Rimbault's chant, and the *Benedictus* to a chant by Dr. Aldrich; the Anthem was "O, how amiable are Thy dwellings." The hymn before Sermon, "Jesus, our hope," Redhead; and after the Sermon "O, happy retribution," Dr. Gauntlett. At the Evening Service, which commenced at 3 o'clock, the same processional hymn was used as at the Morning Service. The Anthem was "Teach me, O Lord," Attwood. The hymn before the Sermon was "The Lord, who left the Heavens;" and after the Sermon W. H. Monk's "Sweet Saviour, bless us ere we go." The whole of the Service and Anthems were sung most admirably, reflecting great credit on the choirs and their energetic choirmaster, Mr. Somerford, lay vicar of Winchester Cathedral; Dr. Arnold, organist of the Cathedral, conducted; and Mr. C. Gamblin presided at the organ.

WINDSOR.—A Concert was given by Mr. G. F. Dossiter, in the Langley Marsh School Room, on Friday, May 29th, (under the patronage of the Rev. W. D. Scoones), which proved a decided success. The vocalists were Miss Poole (of the London Concerts), Miss Hudson (organist of Horton), Master Frank Carr (of Leeds), Captain Vaughan (son of a late favourite English tenor),

and Mr. R. Ratcliffe (organist of Stanwell, Staines). Miss Lazarus, R.A.M., was the solo pianist; and Mr. J. P. Carr (of Leeds), accompanied the vocal music.

WISBECH.—The third annual festival of the Wisbech Choral Association was held in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, at Wisbech, on Wednesday afternoon, the 17th ult., and in point of musical excellence surpassed those which have preceded it. The choirs occupied the two chancels of the church, the principal chancel being insufficient to contain the large body of singers. The procession, which formed at the Vicarage, was received at the west door by the churchwardens, Mr. W. A. Stevens and Mr. W. A. Rust. It was headed by the Rev. Cooper Scott, and Rev. Morgan Brown. The choirs then followed, and lastly the clergymen. The total number of singers present was 236. The music performed on this occasion was that published for the present year by the Ely Diocesan Church Music Society. As the procession entered the church the processional hymn "Children of the heavenly King," was sung to a tune by the Rev. Dr. Dykes. The order of prayer was intoned by the Rev. F. Burgess, of Tydd St. Mary. The 89th psalm, appointed for the day, was given to a double chant by Lawes to the 36th verse, and the remainder to a double chant by R. Cooke. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis were sung to single chants. The Anthem was "O Lord, my God" (1st Kings viii. 27) by the Rev. C. Malan, D.D., and the hymn before the sermon "Holy Spirit, Lord of Light," to a tune by S. Reay. After the Service a collection was made, which amounted to £10 2s.; Mr. Scott, the organist, meanwhile playing a beautiful *Andante* in G by Batiste, in excellent style. The service concluded with the hymn "Wake, wake, for night is flying," by Phillippe Nicolai. The Voluntary played by the organist while the congregation left was Wesley's brilliant "Offertoire in G." Great commendation is due to Mr. Scott, for the degree of precision the choirs have attained, and for the skill and vigour of the organ accompaniments.

WORKINGTON.—On Tuesday evening, the 9th ult., the members of the Philharmonic Association gave their third annual concert in the new Music Hall, lately erected by Mr. J. G. Smith, and which, from its construction, is well adapted for music. The attendance was large, including nearly all the principal families of the town and neighbourhood. The programme comprised a selection of choruses, quartettes, &c. The following members took part in the performance:—Miss Bowman, Miss Ada Bowman, Miss Annie Bowman, Miss Peile, Miss Thornley, Miss Worman, Mr. W. Thompson (president), Mr. S. Bourne, Dr. Douglas, Rev. J. Pearson, Rev. J. Thornely, Messrs. Bell, Hobson, Walker, W. Thompson, and Valentine. The choruses were sung with great precision and effect; and the conductor, Mr. C. Oliver (organist of St. John's), had the satisfaction of receiving many hearty encores from a delighted audience. Dr. Douglas sang two solos (one composed by Mr. Oliver, the conductor), with much taste; and Miss Ada Bowman and Mr. Oliver's pianoforte pieces were well played, and highly appreciated. Before singing the National Anthem, Mr. Charles Litt, in a neat speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the performers, and to the conductor.

YARMOUTH.—Seldom has a Society established in this town shown such rapid progress, or exhibited such satisfactory results within a brief period of its inauguration, as have been displayed by the Yarmouth Musical Society. Excellent as was the first concert of the Society, held in February last, we have no hesitation in giving the preference to the second, which took place on Thursday evening the 28th May. There was a large, though not very full, attendance. The new and spacious Drill-hall was well arranged, and beautifully fitted up. Mr. Stonex acted as conductor, and Mr. R. Tunbridge presided at the pianoforte. The programme consisted of two parts, "Spring" and "Autumn," from Haydn's "Seasons," and a miscellaneous selection. In the first portion of the enter-

tainment, we may observe, that the part songs, "Old May Day," and "Awake, awake," were most effectively rendered. There were also several songs which were most favourably received. With regard to the "*Seasons*," we may justly remark, that the precision with which it was performed, and the extreme delicacy and taste shown by Madame Talbot-Cherer and Messrs. Perren and Farquharson, in their respective characters, gave the most unqualified satisfaction. The Choruses—so frequently the weak point with amateurs—were magnificently sung. The hunting chorus, "Hark, hark, the Mountains!" was received with such spontaneous plaudits, that it was repeated, to the infinite gratification of the assembly; while the Vintagers' chorus, "Joyful, joyful," narrowly escaped a similar complaint.

YEOVIL.—Mr. Loaring gave a vocal and instrumental Concert at the Town Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 27th May. The band, consisting of upwards of twenty performers, played the Overtures to *La Clemenza di Tito*, *Semiramide*, *La Dame Blanche*, and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. The principal vocalists were Mr. Gallimore and Mr. Pescud, and the solo instrumentalists, Mr. Rumsey (violin), Dr. Walter (flute), and Rev. G. J. Blomfield (cornet). The selection and performance of the music gave the greatest satisfaction.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS, &c.—Herr Waldemar Malmène, Mus. Bac., Cantab, formerly of Londonderry, Ireland, has been appointed Organist and Choirmaster to St. Mark's Church, Augusta, Maine, U.S.—Mr. B. Filston to St. Mark's, Liverpool.—Mr. R. S. Spencer, to Christ Church, Consett.—Mr. Josiah J. Baldock, to Warwick Gardens' Chapel, Kensington.—Mr. G. H. Sutcliffe, to All Saints' Church, Binfield, Bracknell.—Mr. Brook Sampson, to be Organist and Choirmaster of the Parish Church, Kettering, Northants.

DURING THE LAST MONTH,

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